

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SP-02 PRS-01 INR-05 SSO-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9987

CONFIDENTIAL KATHMANDU 4669

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NP, US
SUBJECT: SIMONS ARTICLE ON INDO-NEPALESE RELATIONS

REF: STATE 253468

FOR AMBASSADOR CARGO FROM CHARGE

1. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT SIMON'S ARTICLE WILL GENERATE ANY IMMEDIATE PUBLIC REACTION IN KATHMANDU. ONCE GON HAS TEXT IT WILL PRESUMABLY DECIDE NOT TO PUBLICIZE IT AT LEAST IN GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED PAPERS. HOWEVER, IT IS ALTOGETHER POSSIBLE THAT INDIAN CORRESPONDENTS IN WASHINGTON WILL FILE STORIES, PERHAPS INCLUDING FINAL TENDENTIOUS QUOTE ABOUT DECLINING US INTEREST. SUCH ARTICLES WOULD CIRCULATE IN KATHMANDU AND GENERATE SPECULATION ABOUT OUR INTENTIONS AND OUR ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL SITUATION ALONG LINES PRINCE GYANENDRA MADE TO YOU. IN THIS CONTEXT I THINK IT LIKELY THAT MY ABSENCE FROM POST COULD BE MISCONSTRUED. TO MANY NEPALESE ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS, AS INDIANS DISCOVERED WHEN SEVERAL OF THEIR SENIOR EMBASSY OFFICERS WERE ABSENT SIMULTANEOUSLY. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES I HAVE DECIDED TO REMAIN IN KATHMANDU AND HAVE ASKED DAVID FISCHER TO ATTEND NARCOTICS CONFERENCE IN MY STEAD.

2. THE KING AND SENIOR PALACE OFFICIALS LEFT FOR POKHARA THIS MORNING, AND IT WILL CONSEQUENTLY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE ANY CONFIDENTIAL

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CLARIFICATION OR COMMENT TO THEM IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE. HOWEVER,

GIVEN SHARDUL RANA'S ORIGINAL QUERY TO ME FOR FULL TEXT OF SIMON'S STORY, I THINK IT IMPORTANT TO MAKE COPY AVAILABLE TO HIM EARLY THIS WEEK. I WOULD PLAN TO DELAY DELIVERY UNTIL RECEIPT OF CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE AND ANY OTHER POINTS WHICH DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH TO HAVE ME CONVEY TO GON OFFICIALS. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO COMMENT ON FINAL PARAGRAPH OF SIMON'S ARTICLE, MAKING ABUNDANTLY CLEAR TO GON OFFICIALS THAT WE HAVE NOT LOST INTEREST IN NEPAL AND THAT REDUCTION IN OUR AID PRESENCE DOES NOT IMPLY ANY DIMINISHED CONCERN FOR NEPAL.

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Message Attributes

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